Amendments to the Drawings

Replacement Sheets for Figures 1 and 2 have been submitted with this paper to overcome the objection to the drawings.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-15, and 17-26 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, and 12 have been amended, claims 5 and 16 have been canceled, and new claims 18-26 have been added to provide an additional measure of protection for the invention. In addition, Replacement Sheets have been submitted to provide the legend "prior art' in Figures 1 and 2 for purposes of overcoming the drawing objection.

Reconsideration of the application is requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious based on a combination formed between the Valentine patent and the article entitled "Megaco and MGCP." This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites broadly embodiments of the invention disclosed in the specification. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite that "the modified BICC protocol induces generation of the tone by transmitting and receiving messages containing connection information between the originating and terminating gateway controllers." These features are taken from claim 2 which was indicated to recite allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 is now allowable. Claim 2 has been left to recite that the messages are Application Transport Mechanism (APM) messages. Based on these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 are in allowable form.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious based on a Vuong-Valentine combination. This claim has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 5, i.e., "connecting a voice call, via the core network connection, between the originating wireless gateway and the terminating wireless gateway." Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment is sufficient to place claim 4 and its dependent claims into condition for allowance.

Claims 12, 14, 15, and 17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) based on various combinations of the Valentine patent, RFC, and the systems shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Applicant's drawings (which the Examiner has referred to as applicants admitted prior art). Claim 12 has been amended to recite that "the originating and terminating gateway controllers control a call relay using a Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) protocol which induces the tone gateway to provide the tone based on the tone provision instruction." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Based on at least these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 and its dependent claims are allowable.

New claims 18-26 have been added to the application.

Claim 18 recites sending a paging tone signal from a first gateway to a second gateway in response to the tone request message, and relaying a call between a controller of the

second gateway and a controller of a third gateway based on the paging tone signal. The cited references do not teach or suggest these features.

The Valentine patent discloses a wireless communication system that includes a gateway for generating tones. Unlike claim 18, these tones are DTMF tones that correspond to numbers dialed on a keypad of a mobile phone. (Column 1, Lines 16-30). The gateway generates these tones on behalf of the mobile phone (Column 3, Lines 25-45), because any attempt to transmit these tones from the mobile phone would be destroyed by voice transcoder circuitry.

The tones generated by the Valentine system are therefore not paging tone signals as recited in claim 18, and thus the Valentine patent does not teach or suggest sending a paging tone signal from a first gateway to a second gateway in response to the tone request message, and relaying a call between a controller of the second gateway and a controller of a third gateway based on the paging tone signal as recited in this claim.

The Megaco article also discloses a gateway controller for generating DTMF tones (page 2, first full paragraph) and therefore also fails to teach or suggest the features in claim 18. The remaining references are similarly deficient.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 19 recites that "the tone request message is generated based on messages communicated in a Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) protocol between the second

and third gateway controllers." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 20 recites that "the BICC messages include BICC Application Transport Mechanism (APM) messages." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 21 recites that "the paging tone signal is sent to the second gateway through a core network and bypasses the second and third gateway controllers." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 22 recites that "the paging tone signal is sent to the second gateway through a VoIP signal path." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 23 recites that "the first gateway is a tone gateway, the second gateway an originating wireless gateway, and the third gateway is a terminating wireless gateway." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 24 recites that "the paging tone signal corresponds to a pre-defined tone identified based on information in the tone request message." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 25 recites "receiving a ring back tone request message; and sending a ring back tone signal from the first gateway to the second gateway in response to the ring back tone

request message." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

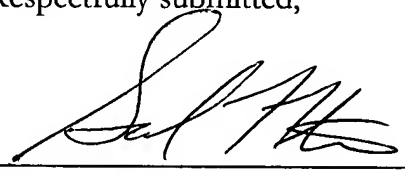
Claim 26 recites that "the ring back tone request message is generated after the third gateway controller sends the second gateway controller a BICC message indicating that address information for connecting the call has been received." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all the rejections and objections made by the Examiner is hereby respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with this application, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No.16-0607 and credit any excess fees to the same Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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